

In re of Appln. No. 09/155,676

of a) or b), each said change being a substitution, deletion or insertion of an amino acid, which analog binds to TRAF2 and either inhibits or increases the activity of NF- $\kappa$ B; or

d) a derivative of a), b) or c) by modification of a functional group which occurs as a side chain or an N- or C-terminal group of one or more amino acid residues thereof without changing one amino acid to another of the twenty commonly occurring natural amino acids, which derivative binds to TRAF2 and either inhibits or increases the activity of NF- $\kappa$ B.

*PB  
SUB  
M*

REMARKS

Claims 13-16, 20-22, 30, 43-50, 52-60 and 62-69 presently appear in this case. Reconsideration and allowance are hereby respectfully urged.

In a telephone conference of May 10, 2002, Examiner Epps pointed out that claim 69 uses the terminology "inhibits or decreases", while claim 51, which it replaced, used "inhibits or increases". The latter is obviously correct, and the present amendment corrects this clerical error.

Examiner Epps also pointed out that the definition of "derivative" may be too broad. The undersigned pointed out that the definition of "derivative" at page 28 of the specification did not encompass changes which would change one amino acid to another. The examiner suggested that it may be better to have this definition in the claim. Accordingly, the present amendment makes explicit what had been implicit in

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view of the definition in the specification with respect to the derivatives.

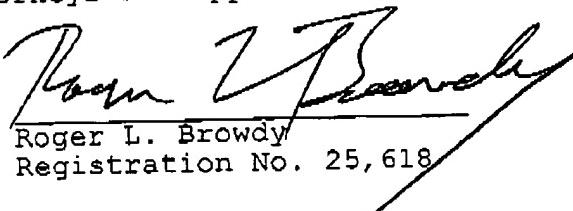
All of the claims now present in the case clearly define over the references of record and fully comply with 35 U.S.C. §112 for the reasons set forth in applicants' amendment of March 20, 2002. Entry and consideration of the present amendment in conjunction with applicants' amendments of March 20, 2002, and April 17, 2002, and allowance of the case are, therefore, earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Rae Dethlefsen

Name

Rae Dethlefsen

Signature

May 10, 2002

Date

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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

Claim 69 has been amended as follows:

69 (NewAmended). A polypeptide that binds to TRAF2 and either inhibits or ~~decreases~~ increases the activity of NF- $\kappa$ B, said polypeptide comprising:

- a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, an amino acid sequence encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:6, or the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5;
- b) an amino acid sequence of a fragment of a), which fragment binds to TRAF2 and either inhibits or ~~decreases~~ increases the activity of NF- $\kappa$ B;
- c) an amino acid sequence of an analog of a) or b), having no more than ten changes in the amino acid sequence of a) or b), each said change being a substitution, deletion or insertion of an amino acid, which analog binds to TRAF2 and either inhibits or ~~decreases~~ increases the activity of NF- $\kappa$ B; or
- d) a derivative of a), b) or c) by modification of a functional group which occurs as a side chain or an N- or C-terminal group of one or more amino acid residues thereof without changing one amino acid to another of the twenty commonly occurring natural amino acids, which derivative binds to TRAF2 and either inhibits or decreases increases the activity of NF- $\kappa$ B.